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Dan Sabia

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Department of Political Science

Spring 2011

POLI Newsletter

Volume 5, No. 2

Greetings from the Chair

The ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa, the national budget debate and state and local budget crises, the aftermath of the natural disasters in Japan—all these happenings, events, crises and consequences remind us of how central and critical a role politics plays in the lives of (so many) people. Helping citizens understand politics, and educating current and future leaders to participate responsibly and effectively in it, are among the key tasks of Political Science. In our own little corner of the universe, we take these tasks seriously.

For example, we organized and/or helped sponsor during this Spring semester alone one panel on the Afghan War and a second on the Middle East, and also two conferences, one on the theme of homecoming after long and devastating wars, the other on the intersections of science, knowledge and democracy. And we rely on and expect our faculty to participate in such events, and in other venues where we can contribute to public and elite knowledge and understanding, whether by providing media interviews or opinion pieces for public consumption, seminars or research papers for public officials, or by providing testimony or advice to political leaders.

I want to bring to your attention one of those faculty members, Professor **Shahrouh Akhavi**, who joined

the Department in 1973 and is about to retire. Shahrouh is an accomplished scholar of comparative politics and a specialist in Middle East politics, a terrific teacher and caring mentor, a leader in the profession and an educator of Presidents and other elites and of the mass public. Shahrouh spent his undergraduate years at Brown, earned a M.A. from Harvard, and a Ph.D. from Columbia. He has conducted field research in Iran and Egypt under grants from the Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Fulbright Senior Scholar Program, and the Social Science Research Council. He is the author of *Religion and Politics in Contemporary Iran* (1980) and *The Middle East: The Politics of the Sacred and Secular* (2009). He has also published many book chapters and many articles, the latter in the *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, *Current History*, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, *Iranian Studies*, *Middle East Journal*, *Middle Eastern Studies*, and many other outlets. And he has served the profession in various capacities, including as President of the Society for Iranian Studies and Chair of its Nominating Committee. He has been Editor of the *Middle East Series* at State University of New York Press and remains Editor of the *Middle East Series in Politics, History and Law* at Routledge Publishers; he has served as Book Review Editor and also Editorial Board member of *Iranian Studies*; Sen-

Dan Sabia
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ior Consultant for the *Oxford Dictionary of Islam*; Senior Editor of the multi-volume *Oxford Encyclopedia of Islam*; and much more.

Taking seriously the role of public educator, Shahrough has penned several invited OP-ED articles on Iran for *The New York Times*, in addition to other invited OP-ED articles for *The Washington Post* and *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. He has been interviewed and cited by such media outlets as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *USA Today*, *The Kansas City Star*, *The Dallas Morning News*, *The Detroit News*, *The Hartford Curran*, *Life Magazine*, *McLean's Magazine*, *The Aus-*

tralian, *National Public Radio*, *Voice of America*, *Associated Press*, *ABC Radio News*, and *The Discovery Channel*. He has testified before Congress and was invited along with other scholars to consult with President Jimmy Carter at the time of the Iranian hostage crisis. He has also been a consultant numerous times with the Department of State and delivered presentations to its Foreign Service Institute.

Currently working on the dialectics of scripturalist and modernist discourses in contemporary Islamic thought, Shahrough remains an active scholar and public intellectual. His presence in this Department has been invaluable for his colleagues, our students, and the wider public; his absence will be a great loss. We wish him well.

POLI Graduate Students Instrumental in U. S. Military Policy Reform

December brought about a new holiday for proponents of repealing the law that banned known gay men and women from serving in the U.S. military, frequently called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." On December 22, 2010, President Obama signed the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Repeal Act of 2010 to allow for the repeal of that law. Front and center at the signing ceremony were USC Political Science graduate students **Alex Nicholson** and **Jarrod Chlapowski**. The duo co-founded the national non-profit organization *Servicemembers United* in 2005 to help advocate for the repeal of this law, and since leaving Columbia for Washington, DC in 2008 to work full-time on this effort they have been driving the national debate over this hot button issue.

Alex, pictured here with President Obama at the bill signing ceremony, has been a frequent guest commentator on the issue for MSNBC and CNN, and is the lead plaintiff in the lawsuit that successfully challenged the constitutionality of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law in court. He is a political science Ph.D. candidate with concentrations in American politics and public administration. Jarrod is a Masters candidate in the department with a concentration in comparative politics.



Alex Nicholson

Events

Inaugural Pi Sigma Alpha Lecture. The POLI Department is very pleased to have inaugurated this year a Lecture series celebrating the local Gamma Chi chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society. Given the importance of the event, it was only fitting that the Department, with help from Pi Sigma Alpha and the College of Arts and Sciences, invite Professor **Morris P. Fiorina**, a leading scholar of American politics. Fiorina is the Wendt Family Professor of Political Science at Stanford University and a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution. His research focuses on American national politics—particularly public opinion, elections, and the quality of representation. The third edition of his groundbreaking book *Culture War: The Myth of a Polarized America* (with Samuel J. Abrams and Jeremy C. Pope) is due to be published later this year. Professor Fiorina has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences, and served as chairman of the Board of Overseers of the American National Election Studies from 1986 to 1990. His public evening lecture on April 14 focused on the 2010 Elections. Thanks are due POLI Professor **Charles Finocchiaro**, who advises the local chapter and who was the chief inspiration behind, and the chief organizer of, the series idea and this inaugural event.

Eisenhower Program Returns to Department. Members of the Eisenhower Program from the U. S. Army War College returned to the

Department in March to participate in a panel discussion on the war in Afghanistan, and to visit a variety of POLI classes. Members of this academic outreach Program, who last visited the Department in March of 2010, are military officers studying at the Army College under the direction of Captain William Davis, Director of National Security Studies at the College. The Panel event, entitled “The Afghan War: Policies, Problems, Prospects,” was held Tuesday evening, March 22, at 7pm. Four of the military officers participated in the panel, together with American foreign policy expert and POLI Professor **Jerel Rosati**. The public event was also sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences. Members of the Program also visited three different classes on March 22 and 23 in order to participate in discussions about a variety of national security issues.

Revolution in the Middle East? One day after the Afghan War panel event, the Department co-sponsored a second, interdisciplinary, panel on the recent unrest in North Africa and the Middle East. Entitled “Revolution in the Middle East?” this public event was held on the evening of March 23. It was co-sponsored by the Department of International Business in the Moore School of Business and the Walker Institute of International and Area Studies. Participants on the panel, which produced a lively discussion, included POLI Professors **Shahrugh Akhavi** and **Harvey Starr**, together with faculty from Geography, Religious Studies, and the College of Mass Communications and Information Studies.

POLI affiliate faculty member **Gerald McDermott**, an Associate Professor in the International Business Department, moderated. The primary organizers of the Panel were Professors McDermott and POLI Professor **Lee Walker**.

PSRW Events. POLI Professors **Andrea McAtee** and **Lee Walker** arranged a terrific Spring semester schedule for the Department’s Political Science Research Workshop. The Workshop provides opportunities for faculty, graduate students, and outside speakers to share current research ideas, projects and papers. Outside guests included Professor **Charles Shipan** from the University of Michigan, who spoke on February 11 about expertise, learning, and policy diffusion across states in the American polity; **Richard Pacelle**, Political Science Professor and Department Chair at Georgia Southern University, who spoke on February 4 about decision-making on the Supreme Court; Professor **Jeff Gill** from Washington University in St. Louis, who gave two talks on March 18 on non-parametric research techniques; **Michael Ward** from Duke University discussed “The Evolution of the World Trade Network” on April 8; and, finally, Stanford University Professor **Morris Fiorina** discussed partisan identification on April 15. In addition to these external speakers, POLI Professor **Kirk Randazzo** discussed his research on the effects of statutory language on judicial behavior on February 25, and POLI Professor **David Darmofal** is scheduled to give a PSRW presentation on April 29 on “Diffusion and Learning across Political Cam-

paings.” On March 25, a number of POLI graduate students used the PSRW venue to give practice presentations for conference papers; and on April 22, POLI Adjunct Professor **Sam Seljan** is scheduled to give a talk on “Economic Interests in the Congressional Authorization of the Persian Gulf War.”

Nostos: War, The Odyssey, and Narratives of Return. A major conference organized by POLI Professor **Jill Frank** and the Classics in Contemporary Perspective Initiative, and co-sponsored by the Department (and many other University units), was held on the USC campus from March 24-27. The conference addressed the theme of homecoming after a long and devastating war in ancient, modern and contemporary contexts, and featured both academic papers and also art, theatre, and documentary performances. Plenary speakers and other conference attendees hailed from across the nation and globe.

How Wars End. In addition to the conference, the subject of war was the focus of another event. Together with the new History Center, the Department was pleased to co-

sponsor the visit of Emory Political Science Professor and Department Chair **Dan Reiter** to the University on January 19. Professor Reiter presented a lecture focused on explaining why belligerents in some wars refuse to negotiate or sue for peace and seek, instead, total victory. Examples discussed included the Civil War, WWII, and (in a qualified way) the Korean War.

Science, Knowledge and Democracy. The complicated, often contested and conflicted relationships between science, knowledge and democracy were the topics of discussion at a conference with that title, held on the University campus April 1-3. Organized by the Philosophy Department and sponsored by POLI and other University units, the three day conference brought together a great many academics from a variety of disciplines and places. Keynote speakers included academics from the Universities of Michigan, Temple, Georgetown and Birkbeck/University of London.

Civil Rights Tour. Each year, the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs organizes a “Civil Rights Tour” aimed at educating students

about the Civil Rights Movement. The four day/three night tour, which is held on the weekend before the start of the Spring semester, departs from Columbia and includes travel in Alabama and Georgia. The POLI Department was among this year’s sponsors of this event.

British Consuls Visit Department. On December 2, 2010, British Consul General Annabelle Malins and Vice Consul Amanda Trice visited the Department in order to solicit information about South Carolina, and also national, politics. The two Consuls are stationed at the British Consulate General office in Atlanta, and were interested in scouting their territory! POLI Professors **Andrea McAtee**, **Robert Oldendick**, **Dan Sabia** and **Mark Tompkins**, shared with the Consuls their knowledge and opinions; it was by all accounts a useful and lively discussion.

POLI Undergraduates Continue to Shine



Daniel J. Hains

Political Science junior and South Carolina Honors College student **Daniel J. Hains** has been named a Truman Scholar Finalist. Extremely competitive and prestigious, the \$30,000 Truman Scholarship is awarded to approximately 60 juniors nationally for superior academic ability, a strong record of service and leadership, and plans

for careers in public service. Daniel interviewed in Washington, DC on March 25 for the scholarship. This year, 197 finalists were named from 134 institutions across the US.

Recruited to the University as a McNair Scholar, the most-prestigious out of state scholarship for undergraduate students, Daniel is a resident of North Carolina. He is an active community volunteer who has worked as a tutor and mentor in the Waverly After School Program and other volunteer roles to support the development of

underprivileged children. He interned at the Children's Defense Fund in Washington, DC, while studying in the Washington Semester Program. Daniel's graduate school plans include seeking a Master's in Public Policy with a concentration in American Politics to prepare for work in the field of education policy and reform. He is about to begin work on his Honors Thesis on education policy with Professor **Dan Sabia**.

University of South Carolina Truman candidates are evaluated and nominated by a USC scholarship committee, chaired by Professor Shelley Smith in the Department of Sociology. Among the other members of the University Truman Committee is our own Political Science Adjunct Professor, **Don Fowler**.



Robert "RJ" May III

Another POLI student, recently graduated, has been awarded a Rotary International Ambassadorial Academic Year Scholarship for both study abroad and service abroad as an ambassador for Rotary, USC, South Carolina. **Robert "RJ" May III** graduated in December of 2009 with a double major in Political Science and Criminal Justice. RJ, who

hails from Newport News, Virginia, is a former McKissick Scholar and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. His academic interests and political passion are both focused on peace and security issues. RJ has already studied abroad--in Dubai, United Arab Emirates--and he has traveled extensively, while being supported by the Benjamin A. Gillman, and also the William Clinton Jefferson, Scholarships. Robert hopes to spread the Rotary message of peace, goodwill, and understanding while pursuing a Masters in International Security and Diplomacy at Tel Aviv University.

Katie Parham, an Honors College senior with a double major in Political Science and French, is featured as one of the students at USC who exemplifies "integrated learning within and beyond the classroom," an idea and practice that is central to a new University-wide initiative called "USC Connect." Katie chose to major in Political Science after working at the South Carolina State House; she led the Carolina Service Council to expand Alternative Spring Break offerings; and she studied with former Democratic National Committee Chair and Political Science Adjunct Professor **Donald Fowler**, such that she is now much better prepared to integrate her career interests and skills to impact public policy. As part of that preparation, too, Katie will soon be defending her Honors Thesis on the multiple effects of NGOs in Haiti after the January 2010 earthquake, research she is doing under the direction of David Simmons in the Department of Anthropology and also **Dan Sabia**.

Alumni News

Tushar Chikhliker received his BA in political science and history from the Honors College in 1999, and then went on to earn a law degree at Wake Forest University. While at USC, Tushar won the prestigious Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, awarded for outstanding achievements in academics, campus leadership, exemplary character, and service to the community. In part because of an ongoing commitment to community service and leadership, and in part because of his success as an attorney and partner at the firm of Nexsen Pruet in Columbia, Tushar was recently honored by *The State* newspaper as one of this year's outstanding young leaders in South Carolina (one of the "20 under 40").

We are also pleased to announce that Tushar retains his interest in both the University and the POLI Department, and has accordingly agreed to join the Department's Partnership Board.

On March 11, the College of Arts and Sciences recognized two of our alumni at its annual banquet honoring excellence. **Daniel D'Alberto**, who earned his BA in Political Science in 1997, received the Distinguished Young Alumnus Award for his many accomplishments in the worlds of law, education, and community service. An associate of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, Daniel works primarily in the areas of complex business, patent, pharmaceutical and securities litigation. He has co-authored several articles, spoken at many seminars, and is an instructor in USC's Paralegal Certificate Program. He is a member of the SC Bar's Practice and Procedure Committees and the Defense Research Institute's Electronic Discovery Committee, serves on the Board of Directors of SC Economics, and is a member of the Leadership Council of the American Cancer Society of the Midlands and of the Young Leaders Society of the United Way of the Midlands.

The other POLI alumni to be honored that evening was Dr. **Lois Duke Whitaker**, who received the Dean's Award. Lois earned her Ph.D. from our Department in 1986, in the field of American Politics. She then went on to teach at Auburn, Alabama, and Clemson, where she became the first female full professor in Clemson's political science department. Currently, Lois is a professor, and also a former department chair, at Georgia Southern University, where she continues her teaching and research in American politics, in particular in gender and politics and in human and civil rights. Among other publications, Lois is the editor of the ground-breaking volume, *Women in Politics: Outsiders or Insiders?*, now in its fifth edition, and also of *Voting the Gender Gap*. Lois is a past president of both the SC and the Georgia Political Science Associations, the recipient of the Clemson Chapter of the American Association of University Professors Award of Merit, and the Georgia Southern University College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Award of Distinction in Scholarship.

Another recently honored alumna is Dr. **Susan Haire**, who received her Ph.D. from the Department in 1993. Susan is currently an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Georgia and an affiliated faculty with the Institute for Women's Studies at that institution. She was in January awarded the Erika Fairchild Award, which honors the late Erika Fairchild, an early President of the Women's Caucus for Political Science-South. Presented every two years by that Caucus, the Award honors a record of achievement in scholarship, teaching and service to the profession. An expert on judicial decision-making, Susan is the co-author of *Continuity and Change on the U. S. Courts of Appeal*, a 2000 University of Michigan Press publication that Susan published with her former dissertation director and mentor, POLI's Professor **Donald Songer**, and also another POLI public law Ph.D., **Reginald Sheehan**. Susan has published in the leading disciplinary and field journals, and has an extensive record of service to the academy and profession, including having served as Program Chair for the National Science Foundation. She also has an enviable reputation as a mentor to many students and junior faculty at Georgia and at other institutions across the nation.

Dr. **Kenneth Kitts**, who received his Ph.D. from the Department in 1995, has recently been named Provost and Vice Chancellor of the Office of Academic Affairs at UNC Pembroke after serving for many years as a faculty member, department chair, and Associate Provost at Francis Marion University. Ken worked as a graduate student with the late Distinguished Professor Betty Glad. He has been an active scholar and teacher, working in the areas of the American Presidency and U. S. national security. His book, *Presidential Commissions and National Security: The Politics of Damage Control* was a *Choice Magazine* Outstanding Academic Title for 2006. In 2003, Ken was named recipient of Francis Marion University's Distinguished Professor Award, and in 2000, he won the Citizen Diplomat Award from the World Affairs Council.

Graduate Student News

Congratulations to the following December 2010 graduates: MPA graduates **Nicholas Bosiak**, **Carroll Williamson**, **Gerald Winger**, and **Ebony Woods**. And MAIS graduates **Nur Abushakra**, **Faisal M. Almadhi**, **Gregory W. Baker**, **Anush Bezhanayan**, and **Scott Davis**.

The Department has news about a number of our recently graduated graduate students. **Eric Chiou** (2010 Ph.D.) is a Research Fellow at the Taiwan Institute of Economic Research. **Gregory Baker**, the December MAIS graduate mentioned above, is also a US Army Major who has taken a position as an analyst at the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington, DC. And **Scott Davis**, another December MAIS graduate mentioned above, is a Lieutenant Colonel in the US Army, and he is currently attending the NATO Defense College in Rome, Italy, along--he tells us--with students from 32 different nations. **Emily Hink**, who graduated from the MPA Program in 2008, has recently accepted a position as the Administrator of Springdale, SC. **Lindsay Kremlick** is also an alumna of our MPA Program—she graduated in 2009—and she has recently accepted a position as Director of Public Affairs at the SC Budget and Control Board. 2009 Ph.D. graduate, **Mekell Mikell**, is currently serving as a Communications Associate with the National Wildlife Federation. And another 2009 Ph.D., **Kelly O'Reilly**, has accepted a tenure track position at Carroll University in Wisconsin after teaching as a Visiting Instructor at St. Lawrence University.

Our graduate students regularly present their research at professional conferences. Some of the presentations, made late in the Fall semester and during this Spring semester, are described below. In addition, ten of our students traveled to the 2011 International Studies Association meeting in Montreal during the middle of March to deliver papers and, in some cases, to serve as discussants on panels. Those students included: **Melissa Beaudoin**, "The Role of Psychological Motivation in Protracted Social Conflict: A Reconceptualization," **Mariam Dekanozishvili**, "Towards Common European Energy Policy," **Nadia Jilani**, "Trading Partners? The Effects of Economic Sanctions on International Trade in the Target State," **Hsiao-chuan (Mandy) Liao**, "Does it Matter Who Triggers the Initiation of a War?," **Michael Martindale** and **Soonkun Oh**, "Small State Costs, Superpower Benefits, and Alliance Behavior," **Ashley Murphy-Schwarzer**, "Human Security and Environmental Security: A Contagion Model," **Nora Nassri**, "Mosque-State Dynamics During the Rwandan Genocide: Rwandan Mosques and Non-Participation in Mass Political Violence," **Soonkun Oh**, "How Do Rivalries End: Linking Rivalry Conflict Management to Rivalry Termination," **Swapna Pathak**, "Environmental Consequences of Violent Conflicts: Completing the Feedback Loop," **Matthew Shaffer**, "Economic Integration and the Substitutability of Coercive Policies."

Ph.D. candidate **Annie Boiter-Jolley**, under the supervision of Professor **Andrea McAtee**, wrote a

research brief titled "South Carolina's State Governmental Structure" that was presented at the Liberty Fellowship Summit on November 30, 2010 in Columbia, SC. The brief provided information to the Summit participants about South Carolina's government structures, and was used to initiate a dialogue about possible structural reforms, including judicial selection and the separation of powers between the legislature and the governor.

Benjamin Bullock, a student in the Joint MPA/MSW Program, is serving this year as President of the Graduate Student Association.

Ph.D. student **Ali Demirdas** presented a paper on "Turkish-Israeli Relations Under the AKP Administration" at the Sixth Annual Graduate Conference in Political Science, International Relations and Public Policy at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 15-17 December 2010.

Congratulations to Ph.D. candidate **Mike Fix**, who recently accepted a tenure track position at Georgia State University, to begin in the Fall. Mike also presented a paper at the Southern Political Science Association meeting in January, titled "Are All Agencies Equal? An Examination of Variation in Agency Success Rates in the U.S. Courts of Appeals."

Congratulations are due as well to **Heather Hawn**, who successfully defended her dissertation on "La Ruta Maya: The Effects of Tourism and the State on the Political Behavior Choices of the Maya" in Febru-

ary, and who will be graduating this May. The dissertation was co-directed by Professor **Lee Walker** and by recently retired Distinguished Professor **Donald Puchala**. Parts of the dissertation were presented at the Southern Political Science Association, the Midwest Political Science Association, and the South Carolina Political Science Association, annual meetings. Heather also presented "Promoting Veteran Narratives in the Classroom: Some Considerations for Political Science Professors" at the American Political Science Association's Teaching and Learning Conference in February. She was also a guest lecturer during the month of February at the Roosevelt Institute's "Ethics and Politics" Symposia, where Heather lectured on the effects of the rise of privatized military firms on democratic accountability in the US and the problems these entities create in the states in which they operate. Heather will also be presenting a lecture to Sigma Delta Pi (the Spanish Honor Society) in April about the Guatemalan genocide and the research Heather did in that country for her dissertation. Heather has been nominated by the Department for the USC Educational Foundation Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award—a mark of her excellence as an instructor for the department over the past few years—and is, she says, excited about her plans to teach a unique course for the Department this Maymester on "Politics and Music."

Zach Hyleman is both a Major in the US Army and a student in our MAIS Program. He is scheduled this July to report to the US embassy in San Jose, Costa Rica, where he

has been assigned as the Army Section Chief in the Office of Defense Representative. In this role, Zach will be coordinating security cooperation projects between the US Department of Defense and the Costa Rican government and national police.

Gretchen Keneson, another student in our doctoral program, has learned that her Master's thesis, "Deadly Silence: An Assessment of Emergency Alert Systems for Lincoln County, Georgia," will be published in the inaugural issue of the *Georgia Journal of Public Policy*, and that a 2009 paper she co-authored, and which was published in the *Georgia Political Science Association Conference Proceedings*, was awarded the James D. McBrayer, Jr. Award for Outstanding Scholarship. The award-winning paper, "Can We Keep Them Coming Back? Volunteer Motivation and Job Satisfaction," was co-authored with **Martha Humphries Ginn**, who earned her Ph.D. in POLI. Gretchen and Martha presented two more recent papers. One was presented in October at the Southeastern Conference of Public Administration in Wilmington, NC; it was entitled "Small Business Administration 7(a) and 504 Lending Programs: Panacea or Band-Aid?" The second was presented in November at the Georgia Political Science Association Conference; it was entitled "Exploring the Relationship between Small Business Administration 7(a) and 504 Lending Programs and Unemployment Rates in Georgia."

Ali Masood is also in the PhD Program. He recently presented a paper titled "Is Democratization Fundamental to Perpetual Judicial Inde-

pendence?" at the annual South Carolina Political Science Conference in Lander, SC.

Susanne Schorpp has learned that her work on "Strategic Anticipation of Noncompliant Governors: State Supreme Court Behavior in Response to the Political Environment," has been accepted for publication in the *Justice System Journal*. Susanne, who is busy at work on her dissertation, has also won a Doctoral Student Research Award from the International Council for Canadian Studies. She also presented in January a paper on "The Effect of War on U.K. House of Lords and U.S. Supreme Court Decision Making" at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association in New Orleans.

Doctoral candidate **Young Hoon Song** was selected for the position of Graduate Student Research Assistant for Vice Presidents Luanne Lawrence and Stephen Kresovich to help the University organize data for research related to the University's economic impact on South Carolina. This new position did not stop him from presenting a paper at the International Studies Association-South meeting in October on "Whether to Leave? Humanitarian Response and Forced Migration in Sub-Saharan Africa," nor from presenting a paper at the March Midwest Political Science Association meeting in Chicago on "Where To Go? The Influence of Humanitarian Response on Refugee Flows."

Yet another PhD student, **Jonathan Rauh**, has recently learned that his piece on "Online Education as a Toll Good: An Analysis of the South Carolina Virtual School Pro-

gram,” will be published in the education journal, *Computers and Education*. Jonathan’s area of emphasis is education policy, and this is a top 10 journal in education research. Jonathan is currently directing a series of evaluations and grants for the State of SC Department of Education.

In January, at the Southern Political Science Association meeting in New Orleans, doctoral student **Charles Wu** presented a paper on “Taking Preferences More Seriously: A Structural Equivalence Analysis.” And in March, Charles presented yet another paper, entitled “The Effects of Policy Similarity on

the Onset of Militarized Disputes,” at the Midwest Political Science Association Meeting in Chicago.

Robert Oldendick: Profile

Professor Robert Oldendick received his Ph.D. in 1977 from the University of Cincinnati. He worked in that University’s Behavioral Sciences Lab from 1974 to 1989, when he moved to USC to start the Survey Research Laboratory within the Institute for Public Service and Policy Research (IPSPR). In addition to serving as the Director of the Lab, Bob was appointed as Executive Director of IPSPR in 2001, and received a joint appointment in the POLI Department in 1993.

When the Survey Research Lab was founded it had three main objectives: to work with state agencies, local governments, and non-profit organizations to collect reliable survey information; to provide an infrastructure that could be used in collaborating with faculty who use surveys in their research; and to conduct research on survey methodology. Over the past 21 years, under Bob’s expert guidance, it has been quite successful in achieving these objectives.

The Lab’s work with external groups has included conducting surveys for numerous state agencies ranging from the Department of Revenue, to the Lieutenant Governor’s Office on Aging, and the Department of Motor Vehicles; local government interests, including the City of Columbia and the SC Association of Counties; and non-profit groups such as the SC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and the NRA. Among the major projects the Lab has conducted are a statewide treatment needs assessment for the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services and a series of recreation participation and preference studies for the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. Since 2005, the Lab has conducted data collection for the Department of Health and Environmental Control’s Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. A major component of the Lab’s research program is the SC State Survey. This biannual survey was established in 1989 and has been conducted each spring and fall since. In each survey, telephone interviews are conducted with a random sample of 800 South Carolina adults. State agencies and other interested researchers use the survey for collecting data for performance assessments as well as for a diversity of policy issues.

Bob also frequently collaborates with other faculty on projects involving survey research. For example, he has worked with researchers in the College of Mass Communications and Information Studies and the School of Public Health on a study of public attitudes toward emergency preparedness; with faculty from the Department of Psychology on an assessment of the effectiveness of parenting programs; and with the Institute for Families in Society in conducting an evaluation of satisfaction with the state’s Medicaid program. This spring he is working with the School of Public Health on a survey of physical activity and recreation in Florence and Sumter counties.

Bob’s own research interests have focused on obtaining representative information from surveys. Surveys provide



Robert Oldendick

much of the data used not only by political scientists studying public opinion and electoral behavior or conducting policy evaluations, but also for researchers in public health, communications, sociology, and psychology. There was a time when the public was quite willing to participate in surveys, but over the past 30 years a number of societal and technological changes have made it more difficult to collect information that accurately represents the views of the population. Increasing privacy concerns, telephone answering machines, caller ID, privacy managers and the rapid increase in households without a landline telephone have made it particularly difficult to collect reliable data in telephone surveys. Bob is currently conducting research into how to incorporate cell phone exchanges into samples that have traditionally been based only on landlines.

Bob's teaching interests are closely related to his research. He generally teaches courses on public opinion, elections, and voting behavior, and much of the material in his courses is based on surveys of the American public that demonstrate the public's views on a range of policy issues as well as how they behave in the political arena. Bob's students are lucky to have as their teacher one of the nation's most well-known and respected academic survey researchers. That reputation reflects Bob's many publications covering survey methodology, as well as his co-authored book, now in its third edition, on *Public Opinion: Measuring the American Mind*, widely used and widely considered a standard in the field.

Faculty News

David Darmofal presented his research on Bayesian spatial survival modeling to faculty and students at four Big Ten universities: Ohio State University, the University of Illinois, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Wisconsin on March 11th. The presentation was in Professor Janet Box-Steffensmeier's Event History graduate course and was presented via videoconferencing to faculty and students as part of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation's Interactive Television Program in Advanced Political Methodology. While at Ohio State, David also presented his research on Geographically Weighted Regressions (co-authored with Michael Crespín and Carrie Eaves of the University of Georgia) to faculty and students in Ohio State's Department of Political Science.

Jerel Rosati, who served last Summer as a Visiting Fulbright Scholar at the University of San Andreas in

Argentina, will be serving, during the Summer of 2011, as a Visiting Scholar with the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) in Armenia. Jerel's text, co-authored with James Scott, on *The Politics of United States Foreign Policy*, Fifth Edition (Boston, MA: Wadsworth/Cengage, 2011) has just been published; widely acclaimed, it is currently used at the National War College in Washington, DC, the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service Institute, and the George C. Marshall (NATO) European Center for Security Studies, Germany. Jerel also had a busy time at the recent (mid-March) International Studies Association Annual conference in Montreal, where he delivered a paper co-authored with **Jean Garrison** (a graduate of our doctoral program, now at the University of Wyoming) on "President Obama and His Foreign Policy Team: Transformational or Transactional Leader," participated in a Roundtable discussion on

"Meeting of the Minds: Expanding Foreign Policy Analysis Scholarship," chaired a panel on "Empirical and Conceptual Challenges in Foreign Policy Analysis," and served as a discussant on a panel on "Contending Approaches to the Analysis of US Foreign Policy."

Todd Shaw participated in a lively panel discussion on "Post-Racial America? A Roundtable on Race and Representation in the Obama Era," at the Thomas Cooper Library on the evening of February 24. The interdisciplinary panel raised a number of questions, including whether the USA is or is becoming a post-racial society, and what that means or might mean. Professor Shaw, the Department's Undergraduate Director, also learned that he received approval for a sabbatical during the Spring semester of 2012.

Harvey Starr also received approval for a sabbatical during the 2011-12

academic year, and he plans to use that time to work on two books and also supervise the NSF funded conference “New Horizons in Conflict System Analysis: Applications to the Middle East,” to be held here at USC in October 2011. Harvey was also appointed Chair of the USC Senate Committee on Libraries.

Professor **Laura Woliver** has been awarded financial support from the American Political Science Association Marguerite Ross Barnett Research Grant Fund to help support her research on her book manuscript, *The American Women’s Movement’s National Coalition: Lobbying for Gender Justice?* Laura also was provided office space for the coming

summer months in the APSA Centennial Center for Political Science and Public Affairs in Washington, DC, to help facilitate the research for that book.

Neal Woods has been quite busy on the publishing front. His recent publications include an article on “Exporting Air Pollution? Regulatory Enforcement and Environmental Free Riding in the United States,” co-authored with David Konisky in *Political Research Quarterly* (December, 2010); another on “Environmental Federalism Revisited: Second-Order Devolution in Air Quality Regulation,” co-authored with Matthew Potoski, and published in *Review of Policy Research*

(November, 2010); a third article, “Expanding the Scope of Conflict: Interest Groups and Interstate Compacts,” co-authored with former POLI Professor **Ann Bowman**, in *Social Science Quarterly* (September, 2010); and, finally, “Governors Turn Pro: Separation of Powers and the Institutionalization of the American Governorship,” co-authored with Ann Bowman and POLI doctoral candidate **Milton Stark**, in *Political Research Quarterly* (June, 2010). Neal also learned that he has been approved for a sabbatical during academic year 2011-12.

Stay In Touch

If you know of anyone who is an alumnus of the Department, or who simply wants to be informed of what is going on in the Department, please let us know so that we can add their name to our Newsletter distribution list. Of course, we are especially interested in hearing news from alumni. Send your news or suggestions to: Professor Dan Sabia, Chair, Department of Political Science, Gambrell Hall, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C. 29208.



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